

What we claim is:

1. A method of controlling communications, in a network capable of allowing a plurality of communications devices to perform mutual data communication, the method comprising:

a step of sending a first command from a first communications device to a second communications device in the network, thereby giving instruction for notifying to the first communications device on a predefined status change performed under control of the second communications device;

a step of notifying from the second communications device to the first communications device on the predefined status change if the status change has taken place within a predetermined time period measured from a time of reception of the first command; and

a step of not notifying on the predefined status change if the status change takes place after the predetermined time period.

2. The method of controlling communications according to Claim 1, further comprising a step of transmitting from the second communications device to the first communications device, information about the predetermined time period as a response, upon reception of the first command.

3. The method of controlling communications according to Claim 1, further comprising a step of transmitting from the second communications device to a third of the communications devices, upon reception from the third communications device of a second command including instruction for notifying on the predefined status change, information about the predetermined time period as a response to the second command, if the second command is received before elapse of the predetermined time period measured from the time of reception of the first command by the second communications device, and if the second communications device is unable to notify to the third communications device on the predefined status change.

4. The method of controlling communications according to Claim 1, further comprising a step of transmitting from the second communications device to the first communications device, information indicating that a timeout has reached, upon elapse of the predetermined time period measured from the time of reception of the first command.

5. The method of controlling communications according to Claim 4, further comprising a step of transmitting from the second communications device to the first communications device, information indicating that a timeout has reached, before the elapse of the predetermined time period measured from the time

of reception of the first command, if the second communications device becomes unable to notify on the predefined status change.

6. The method of controlling communications according to Claim 1, wherein the predefined status change is a status change in use of a bandwidth or a channel controlled by the second communications device.

7. The method of controlling communications according to Claim 1, wherein the first communications device sends to the second communications device a command that extends the predetermined time period, before or after the elapse of the predetermined time.

8. A communications system comprising a plurality of communications devices interconnected by a network for mutual data communication, wherein

a first communications devices connected with the network includes:

a command generating means which generates a command to be sent to another of the communications devices in the network, the command including instruction for having the another communications device notify on a predefined status change controlled thereby;

a first communications means which transmits the command

generated by the command generating means onto the network and receives a notice from the recipient of the command; and

a first controlling means which discerns on the notice received by the first communications device;

a second communications devices connected with the network including:

a second communications means which receives the command from the first communications device and transmits a notice to the sender of the command;

a second controlling means which discerns whether or not the predetermined status change specified in the command has taken place during a predetermined time period measured from a time of the reception of the command by the second communications device; and

a notice generating means which generates a notice to be transmitted from the second communications means when the second controlling means has detected the predefined status change.

9. The communications system according to Claim 8, wherein the second communications device further includes a response generating means which generates a response including information about the predetermined time period, upon reception of the command by the second communications means, the second communications device transmitting the response generated by the response generating means from the second communications means

to the first communications device.

10. The communications system according to Claim 9, wherein the response generating means generates a response including the information about the predetermined time period and informing of inability to issue the notice, if the second communications means receives another of the command including instruction for notifying the predefined status change, from another of the communications devices after the transmission of the response to the first communications device but before elapse of the predetermined time period.

11. The communications system according to Claim 8, wherein the second communications device sends to the first communications device, information indicating that a timeout has reached, upon discerning by the second controlling means of elapse of the predetermined time period.

12. The communications system according to Claim 11, wherein the second controlling means sends from the second communications means to the first communications device, information indicating that a timeout has reached, also upon discerning of a situation which disables to notify the first communications device on the predefined status change before the elapse of the predetermined time period.

13. The communications system according to Claim 8, wherein the predefined status change discerned by the second controlling means of the second communications device is a status change in use of a bandwidth or a channel controlled by the second communications means.

14. The communications system according to Claim 8, wherein the first controlling means of the first communications device has the command generating means generate a command for extending the predetermined time period, and sends this command from the first communications means to the second communications device, before or after the elapse of the predetermined time.

15. A communications device which is connected with a network provided by a predetermined transmission path and is capable of performing data communication with another of the communications device in the network, the device comprising:

a communications means which receives a command from the other communications device in the network and transmits a notice to the sender of the command;

a controlling means which discerns whether or not a predetermined status change specified in the command has taken place during a predetermined time period measured from a time of reception of the command by the communications means; and

a notice generating means which generates a notice to be transmitted from the communications means if the controlling means has detected the predefined status change before elapse of the predetermined time period.

16. The communications device according to Claim 15, further comprising a response generating means which generates a response including information about the predetermined time period, upon reception of the command by the communications means, the communications device transmitting the response generated by the response generating means from the communications means to the other communications device.

17. The communications device according to Claim 16, wherein the response generating means generates and transmits from the communications means a response including information about the predetermined time period and informing of inability to issue the notice, if the communications means receives from still another of the communications device still another of the command including instruction for notifying the predefined status change, after the transmission of the response to the other communications device but before elapse of the predetermined time period.

18. The communications device according to Claim 15,

wherein the communications means sends to the other communications device information indicating that a timeout has reached, upon discerning by the controlling means of elapse of the predetermined time period.

19. The communications device according to Claim 18, wherein the controlling means sends from the communications means to the other communications device, information indicating that a timeout has reached, also upon discerning of a situation which disables to notify the other communications device on the predefined status change before the elapse of the predetermined time period.

20. The communications device according to Claim 15, wherein the predefined status change discerned by the controlling means is a status change in use of a bandwidth or a channel on the network.

21. A communications device which is connected with a network provided by a predetermined transmission path and is capable of performing data communication with another of the communications device in the network, the device comprising:

a command generating means which generates a command including instruction for having the other communications device in the network notify on a predefined status change



controlled thereby;

a communications means which transmits the command generated by the command generating means onto the network and receives a notice from the recipient of the command; and

a controlling means which discerns on the notice received by the communications means for information about an effective period of time for which the notice on the status change will be made, and if the information is found, has the command generating means generate a command for extending the effective period, and has the communications means transmit the command, before or after elapse of the predetermined time period.